

MEMORIAL
TO
ROBERT L. GARRETT

FILED

1901 - 1967

SEP 18 1987

W. C. Fucini Jr.
Deputy Clerk

PRESENTED TO THE FIRST JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT BY THIS COMMITTEE
OF THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION

Appropriately, we begin this term of court by paying humble respect to those recently departed from among us. In another sense we, by this tribute, acknowledge the rich legacy we enjoy from them, a legacy of dedication to excellence in the profession of the practice of law. For this legacy we are deeply indebted to Robert L. Garrett.

Justice is not the result of present endeavor, but is rather the sum total of the efforts of yesterday reflected in the events of today. The quality of that justice can be measured in direct proportion to the quality of the recent practitioners of our profession. We are, therefore, obligated to those of our profession like Robert L. Garrett whose high standards of excellence, whose dedication to the practice of our profession, its honor, its ethics and its ideals, contribute to the quality of justice now meted by this tribunal.

A native of Shreveport, Robert L. Garrett was born in 1901, received his legal training at Washington and Lee University, was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1922, the Texas Bar in 1923. To the time of his death, he engaged continuously in the active private practice of law at Shreveport. He was once associated with the firm of Barksdale, Bullock, Warren, Clark and Van Hook, was a partner of the firm Garrett & Pleasant and

for many years was a sole practitioner. He was a pioneer in the field of motor transportation law and widely recognized for his expertise in that specialty. He actively practiced before the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Public Service Commission, this court, the Federal courts and the respective appellate tribunals.

That is a brief portrait of Robert L. Garrett, the lawyer. No man's vocation is his whole self, and to recite his professional achievements is to cover only a part. It is the whole to which we pay tribute today.

How shall we describe him -- a man with love and devotion to his family -- a man of personal integrity -- a man of warmth -- a man with genuine concern for and interest in others? All these certainly. He was completely dedicated to his family. His pride in and devotion for his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren was the first quality apparent to even a casual contact. Equally existent and constantly demonstrable to those who knew him was his sincerity, warmth, concern and integrity. These personal traits were inevitably extant in his professional endeavors, evidenced, for one example, by his interest in and help to the young, less experienced lawyer. What of the qualities of humor and courage? In him we find both reflected from the same circumstance.

He lived a full life. Yet at the prime of his productive years, with his children not then educated, he faced the gradual but certain loss of vision, without which most of us would consider our active professional endeavors impossible. But many of the achievements here recounted were with this handicap. He continued as before; never without excellence in his work - never without warmth in his personal relationship and more important,

never without humor. Therein lay the quality of courage that was an inspiration to all who knew him. It was a courage bolstered by the support, help, love and devotion of his wife. It was her constant aid and encouragement that enabled him to uninterruptedly continue an outstanding professional career.


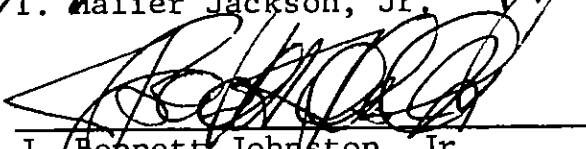
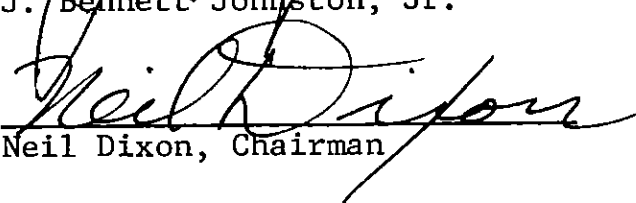
To those close to him, his death left a void, but his life made richer and fuller the lives of those he knew. Thus, the enigma of death. Life ends - but if that life is rich and full, as his was - its experiences, its effect on others, even its existence, lives and grows in the lives of those it touched. So it is that when we commemorate Robert L. Garrett it is with sorrow, but it is also with deep gratitude for our association with him.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, by this memorial, express the admiration and regard in which we held Robert L. Garrett; and to his family our sympathy in their loss.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this memorial be made a part of the records of this court and certified copies thereof delivered to members of his family.

Shreveport, Louisiana.

September 18, 1967.


T. Haller Jackson, Jr.

J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.

Neil Dixon, Chairman